As per the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976, the Katchatheevu Island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Both these agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament.

Chinese Forces on Nepal soil

†2717. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China deploys its forces on Nepal soil;

(b) if so, whether Government has tried to find out the authenticity of the action of deploying armed forces by China in Nepal;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and whether this action of China is also against Indian interests; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in the Nepalese media of Chinese security personnel crossing to the Nepalese side of the China-Nepal boundary. The Spokesperson of Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that such reports are factually incorrect.

Visa to people from Pakistan

2718. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visas that were issued by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad in last five years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of people from Pakistan who visited different States in India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Year-wise number of visas issued to Pakistani nationals by High Commission of India in Islamabad is as follows:

2003	8,390
2004	62,541
2005	90,663
2006	92,334
2007	1,14,937

(b) Such information is not compiled by different States.

Visas for Pakistani national

2719. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visa issued to a Pakistani national for Delhi is limited to Delhi city only and does not include Noida, Gurgaon or Faridabad;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry has looked into it and is planning to issue visas to Pakistani nationals for the whole of National Capital Region; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Visas are issued to Pakistan nationals in terms of the India-Pakistan Visa Agreement of 1982 which provides for city/place specific visas for nationals of either country.

Shortage of houses

2720. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a "High-level Task Force" on affordable housing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current shortage of houses in the country-both LIG and MIG;

(d) whether Government proposes to involve private sector to address this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A Task Force has been set up by this Ministry on 15th January, 2008 to look into various aspects of providing "Affordable Housing for All" and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG) to housing with suitable governmental support and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of the Middle Income Group (MIG) to housing, apart from developing innovative financial instruments for bringing flexibility in the market and making recommendations with regard to fiscal and spatial incentives for increasing supply of house.

The Task Force has been asked to submit its report to the Government within a period of four months from the date for constitution *i.e.* 15th January, 2008.

(c) According to the estimates made the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the total housing shortage for the Economically Weaker Sections/Low Income Group (LIG) is 24.7 million dwelling units. A combined housing shortage of 0.04 million dwelling units has been estimated for the Middle Income Group (MIG) and High Income Group (HIG).

(d) and (e) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 encourages public-private partnerships relating to construction of houses and setting up of Greenfield towns. However, the subjects 'land' and 'colonization' come under the purview of State Governments and it is for the State Governments to take appropriate measures for involving private sectors.

Modern facilities in emigration offices

2721. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: